

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

June 2013 – Week 2

Air Date: June 9 – June 15 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: A DIFFERENT WAR

JUNE 1943 AND WAR RAGES... IN BEAUMONT.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JUNE 15, 1943. BEAUMONT. WITH THE WAR OVERSEAS, SHIPYARDS HERE ARE BOOMING. BUT OVERCROWDING AND FORCED INTERGRATION HAS ENFLAMED RACIAL TENSION. WHEN A WHITE WOMAN IS RAPED BY A BLACK MAN, VIOLENCE ERUPTS.

A MOB OF THREE THOUSAND WHITES RAMPAGE THROUGH THE CITY, BURNING HOMES AND BUSINESSES AND ATTACKING ANY BLACK MEN THEY CAN FIND, INCLUDING A BUSLOAD OF NEW ARMY DRAFTEES.

THE CITY IS PUT UNDER MARTIAL LAW WITH OVER TWO THOUSAND SOLDIERS AND POLICE. PUBLIC EVENTS ARE CANCELLED. SHIPYARDS CLOSE. BUS SERVICE IS STOPPED. ROADBLOCKS BARRICADE THE CITY.

EVENTUALLY ORDER IS RESTORED. ONLY FIFTY WERE INJURED AND TWO KILLED – ONE WHITE AND ONE BLACK.

IN THE MIDST OF WAR, TEXAS FACED A BATTLE HERE AT HOME 70 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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James S. Olson, "BEAUMONT RIOT OF 1943," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/jcb01>), accessed May 30, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Sarah Moore, "World War II prosperity gave way to racial violence in 1943," *Beaumont Enterprise* (<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/article/World-War-II-prosperity-gave-way-to-racial-742902.php>), accessed May 30, 2013. Hearst Newspapers.

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